in the Aree XI for exemplary performance in production have been deducted from their salaries for the month of October, 1993 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Bararee mine is working without adequate supply of tubes, cap lamps, ventilation, line support, drinking water bottles, shoes etc ;

(d) if so, the details therof as on 1st December, 1993 ;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there is no arrangement of spraying water after blasting except using buckets and hands ;

(f) whether full back wages are being deducted without providing minimum means for production ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The workers of Bararee Colliery were not given any exemplary performance aware but were given only incentive payment. Subsequently it was detected that the colliery had not given the desired production and therefore the incentive was recovered.

(c) to (e) Regular supply of tubes, caplamps, etc. are made for production and safety. The supplies made between April and November, 1993 were coal tubs 89. Caplamp Bulbs—2672 Accumulation—426 and Mining Shoes—2340 pairs.

There is arrangement for spraying of water after blasting through a network of GI pipes. Sometimes, water is sprayed from buckets and faces which are at a distance.

(f) and (g) The means of production are provided to the workers. Fall back wages are paid as per statutory provisions.

Coordination between Coal India Ltd. and Railways for allocation of wagons for supply of Coal

1239. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proper coordination between the Coal India Limited and Railways in allocation of wagons of coal to each district and further destination ;

(b) if not, what steps/measures are being taken by Government in this regard ;

(c) whether Government are considering for the Privatisation of distribution of coal ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proper coordination is being maintained at different levels between Railways and Coal India Limited (CIL) for allocation of coal wagons to consumers. It is due to the combined efforts of both Railways and CIL that there has been steady increase in wagon loading over the years, as would be seen from the following data :

(Figs. in average fourwheeler wagons per day)

Year	Daily average loading
1990-91	13330
1991-92	14329
1992-93	15159

(c) to (e) Coal is supplied to actual users against sponsorships/linkages or both. Coal so sold is not available for resale under the provisions of the Colliery Control order, 1945. However, in order to further improve the availability of coal, coal is also sold under Liberalised Sale scheme. Recently, the Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS) has been further improved to extend the

benefits to a larger cross section of buyers. Interested buyers under 'LSS' have been categorised as under :

1. Actual users.
2. Mini Traders.
3. Wholesale Traders.
4. General.

First preference in order booking and despatches under Liberalised Sale Scheme is being given to actual users who can draw coal for their own use in addition to the normal supplies being received by them against sponsorships/linkages. Second preference is given to the Mini Traders registered with coal companies. Mini Traders would be supplied coal upto 100 tonnes per month subject to availability after meeting the orders booked by actual users. Third preference is given to the Wholesale Traders appointed by coal companies subject to availability after meeting orders booked by first two categories. The remaining quantity if available, is allocated to other interested buyers.

Open cast and under ground mining in the country

1240. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that after nationalisation, the country has become more and more dependent on open cast mining ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after another 15 years, the production from the open cost mining would down ;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to meet the challenge ;

(d) whether it is not a fact that in such an eventuality, the country have to depend on the production of coal from under ground mining only ;

(e) if so, what steps are being taken for augmentation of larger production from underground mining ;

(f) whether Government propose to give emphasis on under ground mining from now and hereafter ; and

(g) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (g) The rapid growth in coal production from opencast mining after nationalisation of coal mines was mainly to meet the rising demand of various coal consuming sectors particularly the power sector. Production of coal from opencast mines is not likely to come down in another 15 years. In future also the coal production in the countary will continue to come from opencast as well as underground mines. The planning process in respect of coal development projects both underground and opencast is a continuous one. The choice of method of mining, whether opencast or underground, is generally dependent on factors like nature and geometry of coal deposit, geomining conditions and techno-ecnomic and environmental considerations. However, in order to increase production or coal particularly of superior grades greater stress is being laid on faster development of underground mines.

Fires in Coalfield of Bihar

1241. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 70 fires identified in Jharia Coalfield of Bihar, 5 fires have completely been extinguished ;

(b) if so, what are the names of those fires and when these fires started ;

(c) what methods have been used to extinguishing each of these fires ; and

(d) how much money has been spent on extinguishing of each of these fires since their fired occurrence and till final extinction year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of efforts made by the coal company, 5 out of 70 fires identified in Jharia Coalfield of Bihar have been completely extinguished.